

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 13 and 18 are currently amended, and claim 20 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim 19 was not mentioned in the office action. Clarification of the status of that claim is requested.

Claims 1-3, 8, 11-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki, et al (US 4,789,379) in view of Hanamura (Des 424,984). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the base member extends downwardly, that a link base extends laterally outwardly (i.e., out from the page in Fig. 2) from a lower end portion of the base member so as to be open laterally outward, and that the first portion of the link mechanism is coupled to the link base through a first pivot shaft. This arrangement reduces the overall lateral size of the derailleur.

Ozaki, et al discloses a derailleur (1) comprising a downwardly extending base member (3), a lower portion of which extends laterally inwardly. Links (7) and (8) mount to this lower portion, laterally inwardly of the base member (3). This arrangement is exactly opposite the arrangement recited in claim 1, and it increases the lateral size of the derailleur because the side of the base member must be located sufficiently outwardly to accommodate not only the links themselves but also the outermost lateral positioning of the links. Neither does Hanamura suggest the claimed structure.

Claims 1-3, 8, 11-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki, et al (US 5,597,366) in view of Hanamura (Des 424,984). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the base member extends downwardly, that a link base extends laterally outwardly from a lower end portion of the base

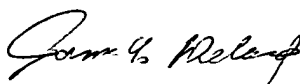
member so as to be open laterally outward, and that the first portion of the link mechanism is coupled to the link base through a first pivot shaft.

Ozaki, et al discloses a derailleur (1) comprising a downwardly extending base member (3), a lower portion of which extends laterally inwardly. Links (13) and (14) mount to this lower portion, laterally inwardly of the base member (3). This arrangement is exactly opposite the arrangement recited in claim 1, and it increases the lateral size of the derailleur because the side of the base member must be located sufficiently outwardly to accommodate not only the links themselves but also the outermost lateral positioning of the links. Neither does Hanamura suggest the claimed structure.

Claims 4-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki, et al in view of Swiss patent no. 337,740. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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